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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------104641 161828Z /42
O P 161808Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9480
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11159

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, GW, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: STRONG FRG REACTION TO AG PROCLAMATION
ON VOTER REGISTRATION

REFERENCE: CAPE TOWN 1203

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG INTERPRETS THE STEYN ANNOUNCE-
MENT ON VOTER REGISTRATION AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD AN
INTERNAL SOLUTION FOR NAMIBIA. THE CONTACT GROUP'S
ABILITY TO STICK TO ITS PRE-AGREED PRESS REACTION IS
VIEWED AS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE.
GENSCHER REPORTEDLY IS FURIOUS. SOUTH AFRICA'S
AMBASSADOR IN BONN HAS BEEN TOLD THE FRG "DEPLORES"
THIS LATEST SAG MOVE. END SUMMARY.

1. LAST EVENING (JUNE 15) THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR
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TO BONN DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE A MESSAGE FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA TO GENSCHER INFORMING THE FRG
THAT AG STEYN WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS INTENT TO PROCEED WITH
THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS TOMORROW. (WE ARE TOLD THAT
A COPY OF THE LETTER WAS CABLED TO THE FRG EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON TOGETHER WITH A SUMMARY OF FRG REACTIONS.
FOREIGN OFFICE INSTRUCTIONS WERE THAT IT BE PASSED TO

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THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT SECRETARY VANCE BE REQUESTED
TO MAKE HIS DISPIEASURE KNOWN TO THE SAG. WE HAVE A
COPY OF THE LETTER WHICH WE CAN CABLE IF REQUIRED.)
BOTHA'S LETTER DESCRIBES THE AG'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS A
NEUTRAL ACT AND CONCLUDES WITH THE TEXT OF THE AG'S
STATEMENT PROVIDED REF A.

2. LATE LAST EVENING GENSCHER INSTRUCTED THAT THE SOUTH
AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE FRG'S
EXTREME DISPLEASURE WITH THE AG'S MOVE. GENSCHER SAID
THE FRG DEPLORES THE UNILATERAL ACTION AND THAT THE SAG
SHOULD EXPECT A STRONG AND NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE
CONTACT GROUP AS WELL.

3. THIS MORNING THE FOREIGN OFFICE INSTRUCTED ITS
CONTACT GROUP REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK TO PUSH STRONGLY
FOR ISSUANCE OF THE PRESS REACTION PREVIOUSLY AGREED
UPON BY THE FIVE. HE WAS TOLD TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL
TEXT AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE AND HIS FLEXIBILITY TO AGREE
TO DEVIATION WAS SEVERELY LIMITED. THE FOREIGN OFFICE
IS NOW ANXIOUSLY AWAITING REPORTS FROM NEW YORK ON THE
RESULTS OF THE CONTACT GROUP TALKS.

4. THE FOREIGN OFFICE, LED BY GENSCHER, IS FIRMLY OF
THE OPINION THAT THE VOTER REGISTRATION CONSTITUTES
THE FIRST STEP TOWARD AN INTERNAL SOLUTION FOR NAMIBIA
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AND THEREBY CONSTITUTES AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS THREAT TO

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----------104559 161830Z /42
O P 161808Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9481

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11159

EXDIS

THE VIABILITY OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND TO THE CONTACT GROUP'S EXISTENCE. THE FOREIGN OFFICE FEARS THAT THIS ISSUE WILL RESULT IN THE BREAKDOWN OF CONSENSUS IN THE CONTACT GROUP, LEAVING THE US, CANADA AND THE FRG WORKING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND FRANCE AND BRITAIN TENDING TOWARD ACQUIESENCE IN AN INTERNAL SOLUTION. (THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS CONVINCED THAT POLICY MAKERS IN LONDON HAVE ACCEPTED THE BASIC ASSUMPTION OF SWAPO REJECTION AND THAT BRITISH POLICY IS NOW AIMED AT AVOIDING ANY STATEMENT OR ACTION WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE ITS ABILITY TO LIVE WITH AN INTERNAL SOLUTION.)

5. AS YET THE FRG HAS MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT. HOWEVER, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CG'S ANNOUNCEMENT, A PRESS STATEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED EXPRESSING IN STRONG TERMS THE FRG'S DISPIEASURE AND DISAPPROVAL OF THE AG'S PROCLAMATION. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED AFTER THE FIVE HAVE AGREED ON AND ISSUED THEIR OFFICIAL REACTION.
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WE ARE TOLD THAT, SHOULD AGREEMENT IN NEW YORK BE BLOCKED, THE FRG WILL CONSIDER MAKING SOME FORM OF

UNILATERAL STATEMENT.

6. COMMENT. EMOTIONS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, FROM GENSCHER ON DOWN, ARE RUNNING VERY HIGH ON THIS ISSUE. DISPLEASURE WITH THE AG'S PROCLAMATION AND THE SAG'S ATTITUDE IS PROFOUND. THE REAL REACTION, HOWEVER, IS CAUSED BY THE FEAR OF WHAT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT WILL DO TO THE CONTACT GROUP, ITSELF. THE FRG HAS PLACED GREAT STORE IN COOPERATION AMONG THE FIVE AND SEES STEYN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS THE ISSUE OVER WHICH THE CG MAY EVENTUALLY FOUNDER.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PDEV, GE, WA
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Type: TE
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